process. The Central Government reimburses to the State Government the amount paid towards such *ex-gratia* relief as part of the security related expenditure. During 1998-99 the State Government has claimed reimbursement of an amount of Rs. 28.20 crores upto December 31, 1998 on account of *ex-gratia* relief disbursed.

Handing over law and order in Delhi to State Government

842. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the law and order situation in Delhi is worsening day-by-day; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to hand over the law and order machinery to the State Government for effective control by the local Administration instead of keeping it?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The reported IPC-related crime during 1998 in the National Capital Territory of Delhi registered as overall increase of about 6.50 per cent over the proceding year. Delhi Police, however, have had some spectacular achievements in the prevention and detection of crime during 1998. These included a major crackdown on robbers; foiling of attempts to kidnap for ransom in several cases; arrest of large number of hardcore militants and recovery of sizeable quantities of arms and ammunition from them; and successful encounters with certain dreaded gangsters.

(b) The transfer of the administrative control of the law and order machinery to the local Government is linked with the proposal to grant full-fledged Statehood to the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Latest status of Assam package

843. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state what has been the latest status of implementation of Assam package, announced by the three successive Prime Ministers during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): The 'New Initiatives' for the North Eastern Region announced by the then Prime Minister in October 1996 include a number of projects for Assam. The latest Status of these projects may be seen at the attached Statement.

Statement

Name of the project	Present position
Rail-Cum-road bridge at JOGIGHOPA	The Rail-cum-road bridge has been completed and inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15th April, 1998.
Rail-cum-road bridge at BOGIBHEEL	The Cabinet approved the project on 10.9.97. The preparation of the detailed project report has been entrusted to M/s. RITES by the Ministry of Railways.
Guwahati Airport	In order to make Guwahati Airport a regional hub as well as an international airport, the Airport Authority of India has initiated action for modernisation/upgradation of the infrastructure facilities in a phased manner.
Three Industrial Growth Centres	The Industrial Growth Centres at Chariduar and Matia have been approved and are under implementation by the State Government. In re-